

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Minutes - Thursday, October 22, 2009

The meeting was held at Town Hall and called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Tom Ragonese. Members present were Tom Ragonese, Rich Lepore, Kevin Rogers, Dan Silbo, Tom Pentalow and Carmelo Amoddio. Also present were Jeff Kotkin, Council Liaison and Kathleen Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

A. Public Comments.

No comments.

B. Minutes – September 24, 2009.

Chairperson Ragonese reviewed the minutes with members. He identified two corrections for the minutes. Town Manager Jeff Bridges was not in attendance at the September 24 meeting and Board Member Carmelo Amoddio was in attendance. Richard Lepore moved to approve the minutes of September 24, 2009 with corrections. The motion was seconded by Dan Silbo and voted unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – August, 2009.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by Board members. Chairperson Ragonese noted that the new Highcrest School playscape continues to be popular with children. Board members discussed the tendency of children to flip the swings over the overhead support system. Town staff will touch up the paint on the support structure as needed.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. None

E. Old Business.

1. New Little League Field – Press Box Status.

Construction is underway on the new press box. The flooring for the second floor was placed today and framing will commence for construction of the second floor and roof. Volunteer Bill Livingston is supervising this project and hopes to have all exterior work completed by the middle of next week. Chairperson Ragonese reported that Town maintenance staff has been busy working on the projects identified by the Building Committee for the field. These projects included extending the warning track along the first and third base coach's boxes and the entrances to the dugout, and repairing the infield, pitcher's mound and home plate area. The fence company was hired to add a six foot extension to the backstop. This work was completed today. Bill Livingston brought to staff's attention that the window for the press box looks out at one of the horizontal support bars for the backstop. He suggested moving the bar a couple of feet down so that it will not obstruct the view from the press box. Board members thought this was a good idea and asked Ms. Bagley to look into it. Chairperson Ragonese reported that Building Committee member Patrick Griffin has been discussing the amount of water coming out of the sprinkler heads with Parks Supervisor Bob Bauer. Since right field is a little wetter than the rest of the field, Patrick Griffin suggested changing the sprinkler head on this particular location. Ms. Bagley will get an update from Bob Bauer on the results of this discussion. Ms. Bagley mentioned that Bob Bauer has been talking with Dr. Dest about the amount of water in right field. They will be studying the water table over the winter and develop some recommendations to correct the situation.

2. Field Renovations.

Chairperson Ragonese gave board members an update on the field renovations to Greenfield and Webb fields. Greenfield field is complete. The project involved skinning the infield, installing a drainage line near the third-base dugout and placing a water connection behind the pitcher's mound. Town staff did not install the pitcher's mound, home plate or bases at this time, but will be purchasing new equipment for installation in the spring. They also left mini flags on the field identifying the sprinkler heads. Little League representatives contacted Chairperson Ragonese about the field not being complete since the flags were on the field and equipment had not yet been installed. Chairperson Ragonese explained the town's timetable for the equipment installation and the winterization of the sprinkler system to them. He mentioned to board members that he inquired about Little League's loan payment to the town for the field lights. Little League told him that they would be making this payment in October.

Chairperson Ragonese discussed the possibility of Parks and Recreation board members attending a Little League board meeting or inviting Little League representatives to a Parks and Recreation board meeting. Topics of discussion could be spring maintenance and field use. Board members concurred with this suggestion and also suggested inviting representatives from other youth sports leagues to their future meetings. These meetings would help improve communication between the youth sports leagues and Parks and Recreation.

3. Cove Docks & Boat Launch Ramp.

Ms. Bagley reported to committee members that the plan for the Cove Docks and Boat Launch Ramp was submitted to the Inland Wetlands Commission last evening. This commission requested more detailed information on this project. Ms. Bagley will work with the engineer from Ocean and Coastal Consultants to provide this information to them. She will keep board members updated on the status of this project.

F. New Business.

1. Basketball Court at Standish Park.

Tom Pentalow explained that he worked with Parks and Recreation staff to have a volunteer contractor fix the cracks on this court. Ms. Bagley had cleared this volunteer project with the maintenance department. Mr. Pentalow explained that he used funds donated in memory of Matt Crane, a student who passed away two years ago. Mr. Pentalow is looking to have a plaque installed on the court recognizing this donation. He will be working with town staff to get the court sealed and color-coated when the weather permits.

G. Board Member Comments.

1. Wintergreen Woods.

Dan Silbo asked about the status of clearing the trees in Wintergreen Woods that fell during the tornado. Ms. Bagley explained that to her knowledge these trees have not been cleared yet but anticipates the work being accomplished during the winter months. These trees are on the list of trees still remaining to be cleared from the tornado, they just haven't been a priority at this time. She will check with the maintenance department to get a time for this project.

2. Cottone Field Lights.

Chairperson Ragonese asked the status of this project. Ms. Bagley reported that the contractor has begun the work to trench the electrical lines to the field and after Thanksgiving he will be installing the concrete bases for the lights. The project is currently funded for the light bases and the electrical work, but funding is still needed for the light poles and the lights. A volunteer committee is working on raising funds for the remainder of the project.

3. Silas Robbins Bed and Breakfast.

Dan Silbo updated board members on the status of the Bed and Breakfast's request to the Planning and Zoning Commission to hold additional events at their facility and be allowed to park on the Broad Street Green. Board members discussed the parking on Broad Street Green and noted that people park there for all sorts of reasons.

H. Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by Richard Lepore and seconded by Dan Silbo to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director  
Parks & Recreation Department